

Mr. Speaker, for Congress to allow the Basic Pilot Program to lapse following the horrific and unspeakable terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, would demonstrate true negligence. More than ever, the U.S. must fully enforce its immigration laws to protect its citizens from future attacks. In its capacity to identify document fraud and illegal aliens, the Basic Pilot Program can indeed play a role in the fight against terrorism.

In conclusion, this Member encourages his colleagues to vote for H.R. 3030.

H.R. 3005, TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to convey my opposition to H.R. 3005, the Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2001. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

American workers have felt the repercussions of fast track authority since the passage of NAFTA. Millions of American jobs have been lost since then. Over 20,000 workers in New York State have lost their jobs since 1994. My district in Buffalo, New York has been hit particularly hard. The passage of TPA will only exacerbate the dire situation the working people of Western New York are facing. Hard working Americans need trade policy that will protect U.S. jobs and stimulate the economy. This bill will not do that.

I voted against Fast Track in 1997 and 1998. I have been clear in my opposition to TPA in 2001. Unfortunately, I did not know this bill would be brought to the floor during my absence. Although I did not have the opportunity to vote, I remain steadfastly opposed to this measure and assure you that had I been able-bodied at the time, my vote on H.R. 3005 would have been "no".

TRIBUTE TO ST. CAMILLUS ACADEMY

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize, and offer my congratulations to, St. Camillus Academy of Corbin, Kentucky. This fall, the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports announced the state champions of the President's Challenge program for the 2000-2001 school year. And, for the second consecutive year, St. Camillus Academy has earned the distinguished State Champion Award for category one schools in Kentucky. I was exceedingly glad to learn of this award and want to take this time to recognize the students of St. Camillus for their outstanding achievement.

The President's Challenge is a physical fitness program designed to test the fitness of public school children in several activities, including sit-ups, pull-ups, and a long-distance running. Students that score at the 85th percentile or above in all categories of the Chal-

lenge earn the Presidential Physical Fitness Award. Schools statewide are recognized by the number of students that have achieved this distinction, and St. Camillus won over all other category one schools in Kentucky. Fifty percent of its students scored at or about the 85th percentile.

Mr. Speaker, this is no small accomplishment. It takes a lot of hard work and effort on the part of children today to reach a certain level of fitness and the importance of fitness as a health benefit cannot be over-emphasized. In announcing state champions, the president's council noted that there is a "growing epidemic of physical inactivity among our nation's youth." Many of our children are suffering from obesity and other ailments as a result of a lack of exercise. We must recognize that physical fitness, in addition to good grades and scholastic achievement, is an equally important component of a good education.

Mr. Speaker, it is fortunate that we, as a nation, can look to many role models for inspiration and encouragement. Of course, we can find several in athletes, professional and amateur, who have striven to achieve and overcome what seem at the time impossible odds. I believe we can include the students of St. Camillus in that category as well. As category one state champion for the State of Kentucky, St. Camillus has proven itself a model school and is deserving of our praise and recognition. Again, I wish to salute the students of St. Camillus for this wonderful achievement. Thank you.

KEEPING THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROMISE INITIATIVE

SPEECH OF

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 282, which reiterates Congress' commitment to our seniors to keep the promise of Social Security.

For years now, Congress and the public have known that Social Security would soon be facing serious financial challenges due to shifting demographics. With the aging of the baby boom generation, the number of retiring Americans receiving benefits is beginning to overwhelm the number of working Americans paying into the Social Security system. In addition, thanks to important medical advances and healthy behavioral changes, Americans are living longer. The result of these factors is that beginning in 2016, Social Security payments will exceed worker contributions into the trust funds.

This is a scary prospect for the millions of Americans who receive Social Security benefits. Many of those individuals depend upon their monthly Social Security checks to survive. As we fight our global war on terrorism, we must not lose sight of the fact that terror can come in many forms. It is every bit as frightening to an elderly man or woman that the Social Security check might be late—and far more real. Too many of these people are living from one check to the next and balancing food against medicine. As their Representatives in Congress, we should at least

provide them with the security of the promise of Social Security.

It is also a scary prospect, Mr. Speaker, for the millions of Americans who are approaching retirement. They have been paying into the Social Security trust funds because they have to, not because they believe in Social Security. In fact, numerous studies have shown that more young Americans believe in UFOs than in their future Social Security checks.

It is clear that Social Security in its current form—the form it has had since the Great Depression—is unsustainable. If we are to keep the promise that so many seniors and working Americans have relied upon for years, we must reform this program. There are many possibilities for reform, including adding personal investment options. The President appointed a commission of experts from business, think tanks, and government to explore these alternatives and to make recommendations to Congress for change. They are expected to vote on their final report today, and Congress should consider their recommendations with due deliberative speed. We must act quickly, but more importantly, we must act right.

But throughout our deliberations, Mr. Speaker, we must maintain our steadfastness to keep the promise of Social Security. We should not raise Social Security taxes and we should not cut benefits. We must use the innovative spirit that is America's hallmark to meet this challenge and find a way to strengthen and improve Social Security.

Building upon the Social Security lock box legislation that this body has already approved, this resolution lays the groundwork for our coming debate, reaffirming our commitment to Social Security's beneficiaries, in particular, the most vulnerable beneficiaries—the low-income, the women, and the minorities. I look forward to reviewing these issues with my colleagues and developing a real solution to this challenge.

I urge all my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 282.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 11, 2001, I was detained and therefore missed rollcall votes #483, #484, and #485. Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on rollcall #483, "Aye" on rollcall #484, and "Aye" on rollcall #485.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING WWVA RADIO

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, on December 13, 2001 WWVA Radio in Wheeling, West Virginia celebrates its 75th anniversary; and,

Whereas, WWVA Radio began with a 50 watt transmitter in the home of John Stroebel